Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 EB-11 XMB-07 CIAE-00 INR-10

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R 040729 Z MAY 73 FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7659 INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 2829

E. O. 11652: N/A, DECLAS MAY 1, 1974

TAGS: EFIN, ETRD, KS

SUBJECT: SELLING U.S. EQUIPMENT IN KOREA

REF: A. STATE 80968; B. SEOUL 2548

FOR COMMERCE

- 1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES POSITIVE COMMERCE RESPONSE TO OUR REFTEL ON TONG YANG CEMENT PLANT AND RELATED QUESTION OF OBTAINING PROPER REPRESENTATION FOR U. S. FIRMS IN KOREA. AT THIS POINT WE WOULD SUGGEST DEFERRAL OF PROPOSAL TO SEND TO KOREA GROUP OF SENIOR US CORPORATE EXECUTIVES TO HANDLE SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED PROJECTS. WE HAVE IN PROSPECT THE US VISIT OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND OF KOREAN PURCHASING MISSION. FROM THESE VISITS WE AND THE KOREANS SHOULD LEARN MUCH ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR INCREASED US SALES WHERE. IN THE INTERIM, BEST MARKETING METHOD WOULD BE TO HAVE EXECUTIVES OF INDIVIDUAL FIRMS OR SPECIFIC INDUSTRY GROUPS COME TO KOREA FOR SEPARATE IDENTIFIABLE MAJOR PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES IN SUCH AREAS AS CEMENT, STEEL AND SHIPBUILDING.
- 2. \$22 MILLION TONG YANG CEMENT PLANT CONTRACT SIGNED WITH FULLER APRIL 30. THIS IS CONCRETE EXAMPLE OF HOW EMBASSY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXIMBANK, U. S. FIRM EXECUTIVES AND U. S. FIRM LOCAL REPS CAN CAREFULLY COORDINATE TO DIVERT PIECE OF BUSINESS FROM EUROPEAN COMPETITORS TO THE U. S. THIS IS PATTERN WE WOULD HOPE TO REPEAT FOR OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS NOW BEING CONSIDERED FOR STEEL AND SHIPBUILDING, AMONG OTHERS.

- 3. WITH REGARD TO DIFFICULTIES FOR U. S. SUPPLIERS RAISED BY EISENBERG CONNECTION, WE ARE NOT SUGGESTING DIRECT DEALING IN THE SENSE THAT LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES BE ELIMINATED. IN MOST CASES, EVEN INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING FIELD, SOME FORM OF LOCAL REPRESENTATION IS DESIRABLE TO MAINTAIN REGULAR CONTACTS WITH INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT. EMBASSY CAN AND WILL SUPPLEMENT THIS WITH THE KIND OF GOOD OFFICES THAT EMBASSY ALONE CAN SUPPPLY. BUT WE DO NOT THINK IT ADVISABLE FOR U. S. FIRMS TO DEAL WITH TEN OR TWENTY PERCENTERS WHO INSERT THEMSELVES IN THE PICTURE AND EMPLOY UNETHICAL METHODS AS GOBETWEENS. THIS IS WHY THE EMBASSY DOES NOT RECOMMEND THE EISENBERG CONNECTION. WE UNDERSTAND EXIMBANK SHARES THIS VIEW. WE BELIEVE COMMERCE SHOULD ALSO RECOMMEND DUE CAUTION TO U. S. BUSINESS FIRMS WHICH FEEL THEY MUST EMPLOY THE EISENBERG CONNECTION TO GET THE BUSINESS.
- 4. COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR GETSINGER WILL BE IN WASHINGTON FOR FEW DAYS WEEK OF MAY 7 ON PERSONAL BUSINESS AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER MATTERS WITH COMMERCE AND EXIM OFFICIALS CONCERNED. UNDERHILL

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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

^{***} Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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